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AN ACCOUNT OF A MOST EFFICACIOUS MEDICINE FOR SORENESS, WEAKNESS, AND SEVERAL OTHER DISTEMPERS of the EYES.

By Sir HANS SLOANE, Bart.
PHYSICIAN TO HIS LATE MAJESTY, &c.

Printed at LONDON, in the Year 1745;
And Re-printed at READING, by J. CARNAN and Co.
In the YEAR 1767.
And sold by J. NEWBERY, in St. Paul's Church-Yard,
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TO THE

KING.

SIR,

THIS Account of my moſt *Effectual Medicine* for the Cure of *Sore* and

and *Weak Eyes*, is now made public for the Benefit of Mankind; and moſt humbly Dedicated to your MAJESTY, by,

Your MAJESTY's,

Moſt dutiful, and

Moſt obedient,

Subject and Servant,

HANS SLOANE.

AN ACCOUNT OF A MOST EFFICACIOUS MEDICINE FOR SORE EYES.

THROUGH an earneſt Deſire to be uſeful in my Profeſſion, the Practice of Phyſic, to which I was led by a ſtrong natural Inclination, I was always very attentive to Matters of Fact, and the real Cures that fell under my Obſervation. Of theſe I ſaw many performed upon Sore Eyes by Dr. Luke Rugeley: whereupon I applied to a very

understanding Apothecary of his particular Acquaintance and mine, and endeavoured, though without Effect, to procure some Knowledge of the Medicine he made use of. After the Doctor's Death I still pursued my Enquiry, by searching into his printed Books and Manuscript Papers, and particularly into a very curious MATERIA MEDICA left by Him: but all in vain; 'till at length a Person, whom I believe he had employed in making his Medicine, came to me; and for a pecuniary Reward, joined to a Promise of not divulging it to his Prejudice, delivered me up the genuine Receipt, in the Doctor's own Hand-Writing; which, as I reformed, improved, and used it many Years, is as follows:

THE RECEIPT.

TAKE *of Prepared* TUTTY, *one Ounce*; *of* LAPIS HÆMATITES *prepared, two Scruples*; *of the beſt* ALOES *prepared, twelve Grains*; *of prepared* PEARL, *four Grains. Put them into a Porphyry, or Marble Mortar, and rub them with a Peſtle of the ſame Stone very carefully, with a ſufficient Quantity of* Viper's Greaſe, *or* Fat, *to make a* Liniment. *To be uſed Daily, Morning or Evening, or both, according to the Conveniency of the Patient: as hereafter directed.*

THIS Medicine I ſoon tried, and, though a Compoſition, found it ſo ſurpriſingly beneficial, that by the right Uſe of it not one in Five Hundred miſſed of a Cure, unleſs their Diſorder proceeded from a Venereal Taint.

SEVERAL Years after I had been in Poſſeſſion of this Secret, in turning over ſome

Manuſcripts of Sir THEODORE MAYERNE, I found he had known the ſame Ointment, or Liniment, and had entered it in his PHARMACOPOEIA, under his own Name: though I afterwards diſcovered, that it was not originally his, but had been communicated to him by Sir MATTHEW LISTER, a Member of the College of Phyſicians; who had performed a Cure with it on a Lady SAVILE, which Sir THEODORE thought a very extraordinary one. And 'tis very probable, that he afterwards communicated it to Dr. THOMAS RUGELEY, Father of Dr. *Luke Rugeley*; as I find they were Cotemporaries and Friends.

THE Method, which has beſt ſucceeded with me in facilitating the efficacious Uſe of this Liniment, is, to bleed, and bliſter in the Neck and behind the Ears, in order to draw off the Humours from the Eyes; and afterwards, according to the Degree of the

Inflam-

Inflammation, or Acrimony of the Juices, to make a Drain by Iſſues between the Shoulders, or a perpetual Bliſter. And for waſhing the Eyes, I generally recommend Spring Water; which I think preferable to any ſpirituous Lotion, whether ſimple or compound. And the beſt inward Medicines I have experienced to be, Conſerve of Roſemary Flowers; Antiepileptic Powders, ſuch as *Pulvis ad Guttetam*; Betony, Sage, Roſemary, Eyebright, wild Valerian Root, Caſtor, *&c.* waſhed down with a Tea made of ſome of the ſame Ingredients: as alſo Drops of *Spirit. Lavendulæ compoſit.* and *Sal. volat. oleos.*

If the Inflammation returns, drawing about ſix Ounces of Blood from the Temples by Leaches, or Cupping on the Shoulders, is very proper.

The Liniment is to be applied with a ſmall Hair Pencil, the Eye winking or a little opened.

In

In profecuting the Cure of Sore Eyes, I have been ſometimes ſurprized by want of Succeſs; 'till at length I found that the Cauſe was a lurking intermitting Fever, every Fit of which affected the Eyes, and rendered their Diſorder obſtinate: wherefore upon taking off the Fever by a proper Uſe of the Bark, the Cure has been effectually performed.

This Medicine has cured many, whoſe Eyes were covered with opake *Films*, and *Cicatrices* left by Inflammations and Apoſtems of the *Cornea*; which, though they happen to Perſons of all Conditions, yet are more common among the poorer Sort of People; many of whom were ſo totally deprived of Sight, as to be under a Neceſſity of being led to me; and after ſome Time could perfectly well find their Way without a Guide, to my great Satisfaction. And it is not only very beneficial in ſuch Caſes, but

alſo

alſo where there is an exceſſive Pain in the Eyes, ſhooting thence up into the Head; as I particularly remember in a great Lady, who had ſuch Pains in her ſore Eyes, and Head, that ſhe had, when I firſt ſaw her, taken about fifty Drops of *Laudanum* thrice in twenty-four Hours, if I remember right, of which Complaints ſhe and many others have been relieved by this Medicine, without the Help of any Opiate.

Mons. Anisson, who was ſent hither with the Duke d'Aumont, Commiſſioner for ſettling a Treaty of Commerce with England, brought me recommendatory Letters from ſome Friends in France. I obſerved a great Soreneſs and Weakneſs in his Eyes, of which the Application of my Medicine very ſoon cured him. Whereupon he aſſured me, that he would procure me from the King his Maſter any Reward I ſhould think fit to aſk for the Secret; he being

being accuſtomed to oblige his Subjects that way: but I anſwered him, that I was then bound by a Promiſe to conceal it.

It is to be obſerved (contrary to the common Practice, and to the Opinion which I myſelf entertained in my earlier Days, and communicated to the Public in the Introduction to my *Natural Hiſtory of* Jamaica) that Cathartics, eſpecially with the Addition of Mercury, are prejudicial in the Diſeaſes of the Eyes, which are cured by this Medicine.

It is alſo worthy of Remark, that People afflicted with weak Eyes are over-fond of Hoodwinking, or covering them from the Light; which ſometimes retards the Cure, by keeping their Eyes too warm: and therefore I have conſtantly adviſed them to throw away theſe Coverings, as ſoon as they could poſſibly bear the Light.

I was

I was intimately acquainted with Dr. William Stokeham, a very ingenious Gentleman, Phyſician to King William III. who had formerly ſpent ſome Years at *Padua*, and had been acquainted with the moſt eminent Phyſicians of that Univerſity, and alſo with Tachenius of *Venice*, one of the greateſt Chemiſts of the laſt Age. He told me, he had learnt the great Virtue of *Viper's Greaſe* or *Fat*, in the Cure of Diſeaſes of the Eyes; which is recommended for that Purpoſe by Daniel Ludovicus, in his Book *de Pharmacia moderno ſeculo applicanda, Gothæ*, 1671, 12°. And this, indeed, I judged ſo very reaſonable, that I ſubſtituted that Greaſe, or Fat, in the Place of the Hog's Lard, which was in the original Receipt; and found, that it added ſo much to the Efficacy of the Medicine, as to make it do, what I thought, Wonders. And as I was not bound to Secreſy, with regard to this Improvement, I communicated it to the

late Dr. ARBUTHNOT; who, after repeated Trials of that Fat alone on Sore Eyes, had ſo high an Opinion of its Virtues, that he looked on it as equally beneficial with the whole Medicine.

I HAVE ſince read in ſome MISSIONARY LETTERS, that Serpent's Fat is uſed by the *Eaſt Indians*, for the ſame Purpoſe.

IT is an Obſervation made by many Naturaliſts, that thoſe Serpents caſt their Skins every Year, and with them the Coverings of their Eyes: but how far, or whether at all, their Fat is concerned in this *Phænomenon*, I leave to others to determine.

ONE of the moſt eminent and learned Chirurgical Authors, to whom I had a particular Regard in my Practice, cautions his Readers againſt the Uſe of Oil in Diſeaſes of the Eyes; by which, I ſuppoſe, he meant

Olive-

Olive-Oil. Agreeable to this Caution, I confeſs, I never uſed any Oil, either alone, or mixed with other Medicines, for the Eyes; being unwilling to try Remedies, whoſe Effects were doubtful, and may poſſibly be pernicious: which I afterwards obſerved to be the Caſe with regard to Olive-Oil, when uſed by ſome People (to whom I had given the Liniment) in order to make it more liquid, upon drying; for the Liniment, in that State, has cauſed very conſiderable Complaints. This, in my Opinion, proceeds from ſome hot, ſharp Particles, contained in the Oil; though it is generally reckoned very ſoft and mild in outward and inward Uſe: for I remember, when at *Montpellier*, I was informed by Monſ. MAGNOL, and Others of my Acquaintance there, that the feeding of tame Rabbits with Olive Leaves, in want of other Food, has cauſed their making bloody Urine.

I HAD formerly, as already ſaid, promiſed Secreſy with regard to this Medicine; which I have religiouſly kept 'till now, that I think myſelf, for many Reaſons, abundantly abſolved. I have had ſome other Medicines of the like Nature communicated to me under the ſame Reſtriction; and excluſive of theſe few Caſes, I cannot charge myſelf with making the leaſt Myſtery of my Practice. For in Conſultations, in a Number of Caſes of Importance, I have been always very free and open: far from following the Example of ſome Phyſicians of good Morals and great Reputation, who have on many Occaſions thought proper to conceal Part of their own acquired Knowledge, alledging the Maxim, *Artis eſt celare Artem.* And that I have not been inclined to conceal or monopolize Medicines of great Uſe, the following Inſtance will ſufficiently ſhew.

SIR

Sir Robert Southwell, a very worthy Preſident of the Royal Society, who was a Patron to many Perſons of Merit, and among others to Captain Dampier, told me, that the Captain in Converſation let him know, that his Family, at *Exmouth* in *Devonſhire*, had a ſecret Medicine, whereby they infallibly cured all Men and Beaſts, bit by mad Dogs and other Creatures. Whereupon I earneſtly intreated Sir Robert to uſe his Intereſt with the Captain, to procure, if poſſible, a full Account of it, as a Matter of great Conſequence to the Public. Sir Robert readily complied; and at his Requeſt Captain Dampier obtained from his Relations the Account thereof, which I publiſhed entire in the *Philoſophical Tranſactions*, N°. 237, with all the neceſſary Circumſtances to be obſerved; ſeveral of which were afterwards omitted by the Abridgers of that Paper. But ſoon after the ſaid Account had been put into my Hands, having aſſured Sir

Robert

ROBERT, that *Jews-Ears*, mentioned therein as a principal Ingredient of the Medicine, muſt be a Miſtake, inaſmuch as that Vegetable is pernicious, taken inwardly; I deſired him to procure a Sample of the Herb ſo named in the Account, in order to examine what it was, and likewiſe a Doſe of the Medicine, to know the Quantity to be taken. This occaſioned both the one and the other to be ſent up from the Family; by which means I diſcovered, that it really was, not *Jews-Ears*, but, the *Lichen cinereus terreſtris* of Mr. RAY, who had firſt publicly taken Notice of it, in his Catalogue of *Engliſh* Plants, printed in the Year 1670: He at the ſame Time wondering, that it had eſcaped the Obſervation of all former Botaniſts. And this Inſtance, by the by, ſhews the Uſefulneſs of obſerving non-deſcript Simples; which may poſſibly be found, as this ſince was, to be of great Importance to the Welfare of Mankind. This Point being

ing ſettled, I accompanied the Publication of the Letter, or Account, with a Remark; without which, as manifeſtly appears, it either would have had no Effect, or have been of bad Conſequence. I at the ſame time acquainted Mr. PETIVER, Mr. DOODY, Mr. RAND, and other Botaniſts, with the Diſcovery of this Matter; and recommended to them to provide a Quantity of this *Lichen*, ſufficient to anſwer all Occaſions. It was accordingly made uſe of with the ſame Succeſs, with which it has ever ſince been attended.

FINIS.

ing settled, I accompanied the Publication of the Letter, or Account, with a Remark; without which, as manifestly appears, it either would have had no Effect, or have been of bad Consequence. I at the same time acquainted Mr. PETIVER, Mr. DOODY, Mr. RAND, and other Botanists, with the Discovery of this Matter; and recommended to them to provide a Quantity of this Liquor, sufficient to answer all Occasions. It was accordingly m[illegible] with the same Success, with wh[illegible]ever since been attended.

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